

National Night Out Key Messages

- National Night Out is “A Going Away Party for Crime”
- National Night Out was started in 1984 as a way to get more people involved in crime prevention. In its first year, about 400 communities participated in National Night Out activities. This year, it is estimated that more than 15,000 communities and more than 37 million people will be part of the 27th Annual National Night Out.
- National Night Out started with people turning on their lights at home and participating in “porch vigils.” While those activities remain part of National Night Out, the variety of events that take place in communities nationwide has expanded over the years to include block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, neighborhood walks, safety fairs, and rallies.
- National Night Out activities in Yakima this year include:
 - YPAL (Yakima Police Athletic League) Center – Party and family activities
 - Southeast Community Center – Safe Communities info and family activities
 - Franklin Pool – Free family swim
 - Yakima Regional Hospital – Community Expo and Health Fair (including free barbeque, family activities, blood pressure screening and more.
 - Numerous block parties throughout the community
- National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.
- National Night Out heightens awareness of and generates support for crime prevention and drug prevention programs.
- National Night Out sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. While the one night is certainly not the complete answer to crime, drugs, and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy, and determination that is making neighborhoods safer places.
- National Night Out is an opportunity to celebrate community safety and crime prevention successes and to build momentum to strengthen and expand on our accomplishments throughout the rest of the year.
- Yakima’s neighborhoods are organizing and fighting back against crime. There are currently 68 Block Watches operating in our community, with about one-third of those having been activated since January of this year. Another 60 Block Watches are in the process of being activated. The growth in neighborhood involvement is directly attributable to the City having hired a Crime Prevention/Block Watch Coordinator last summer. For details about the Block Watch program, contact the current Crime Prevention/Block Watch Coordinator, Juan Romo by phone (575-6197) or by e-mail (jromo@ci.yakima.wa.us).
- Combating crime and violence is the Yakima City Council’s Number One Priority. Our focus on public safety resources in the last few years is paying off. Crime rates in Yakima have dropped by an average of about 10% each of the last 3 years. But we still have work to do and it will take the continued active involvement of neighborhoods and individual citizens to drive crime out of Yakima.